Volume 18 No. 4 August 2007

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Local opposition keeps warships away from Lakefair

by Aaron Hartwell

Three naval vessels that had agreed to attend Olympia's yearly Capitol Lakefair on July 20 and 21 have since declined to attend due to the inability of Lakefair planners to meet their security requirements. The ships that had originally accepted Lakefair's invitation to attend included the *USS Ingraham* which is armed with one Mk 75 76mm/62 caliber rapid firing gun, along with MK 32 ASW torpedo tubes (two triple mounts), and one Phalanx CIWS (an automated anti-missile system comprised of a 20mm M61 Vulcan Gatling-type rotary cannon linked to a radar system). The other two ships were the Canadian vessels the *HMCS Whitehorse* and *HMCS Saskatoon*. The ships' commanders had planned to open the vessels to public tours.

News of the impending visits sparked intense opposition by many local citizens who did not want Lakefair or Olympia to be used as forums for the glorification of war and weaponry, or for military recruitment.

This year's rejection of Navy vessels can be considered a sequel to 2004 when similar opposition repelled a visit by the *USS Olympia*, a nuclear submarine. This year the cancelled visits followed a coordinated letter writing campaign directed at stakeholders in the event including local governments, the local newspaper, and the ships' commanders, in tandem with many citizens arguing against the visits before the Port of Olympia and the Olympia City Council.

At a city council meeting held on July 10, only eleven days before the planned visits, Lakefair President Terry Chmielewski requested six to ten police officers from the city to provide the security required by the Navy. The council declined to provide the requested security on the grounds that the police resources weren't available on such short notice nor did the city's budget allow for it.

Councilmember Laura Ware also argued against the ships coming if it meant the Coast Guard would have their machine guns trained on the Lakefair goers at the Port of Olympia Plaza as it has done during past military shipments out of the port. Councilmember TJ Johnson noted that according to the Pentagon's own website, the displays of military hardware at local festivals are an attempt to bolster recruitment.

Several weeks prior to the July 10 City Council meeting, local groups had begun planning for demonstrations in the event the warships did arrive. Members of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) and Olympia Port Militarization Resistance (OlyPMR) had begun publicly communicating the likelihood of a large regional response to the ships' Lakefair visit. It appears that as the reality of these planned demonstrations materialized, the Navy and Lakefair were forced to re-evaluate their security plans and ultimately scrap the visits due to a realization that the costs of securing such an event immensely outweighed the benefits.

As a result of this recent win by the justice and peace community in Olympia, the US military won't have nearly the opportunity it had hoped for to recruit local youth using the seductive allure of Navy warships and the destructive prowess they embody. Instead, this community has taken another small step toward a society that de-emphasizes destructive military solutions for conflict that result in such horrendous crimes as the current Iraq War and the so-called "War on Terror."

Citizens of this country and the world must continue to restrict and restrain the sphere of societal influence of the military and the inherent solution of domination via death and destruction it promises. We must reprioritize away from servitude to a bloated and parasitical military-industrial complex toward dialogue, real democracy and allocating resources based on the needs of humanity. Future generations and the human species depend on it.

Aaron Hartwell is a longtime Thurston County Resident and a member of OMJP. He is known to introduce the topic of Sou'westers into conversation occasionally despite admitting to never having actually worn one.

Dismantling our Constitutional rights

by Jane Troutbeck

First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, Fifth Amendment? Who cares? The people who've stolen our country are quietly turning the public into a mass of voiceless peons, who are too busy slaving at low-paying jobs and watching television to notice their rights being stripped away.

A squeaky wheel

Ruth Lipow, however, did not just sit back when her first amendment rights were suppressed by Olympia police officers. When she attempted to distribute leaflets about a single payer system at the Olympian-sponsored public health care forum, she was intimidated by police officers who told her she was not allowed to hand out flyers at the Olympia Center. She testified before the Olympia City Council and got results (see page 7).

Lakefair pisses on the 1st Amendment

Although Lakefair designated a small area near the portable toilets as a "public expression area," public objection led Cathie Butler, Communications Director for the City of Olympia to write a memo assuring Gar Lipow, son of Ruth Lipow, that Lakefair has been informed that people have a right to "free speech activities conducted on City property in a safe and non-disruptive manner." Her memo continued, "I will also be informing them that City personnel (including our police officers) will not intervene to prohibit anyone from engaging in free speech on City property that is conducted in a way that does not pose a threat to individual or public health, safety and welfare and/or is not disruptive."

George Bush pisses on the whole country

It may require more time and effort to oppose the threat to our First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, and Fifth Amendment rights created by an Executive Order issued by George W. Bush on July 17, 2007. The order, entitled "Blocking Property of Certain Persons Who Threaten Stabilization Efforts in Iraq," will allow the President to confiscate the assets of people who resist the illegal occupation of Iraq. According to Professor Michel Chossudovsky "in substance, under this executive order, opposing the war becomes an illegal act. The Executive Order criminalizes the antiwar movement." (see *www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=6377*)

What's at stake now?

It is virtually certain that this executive order will be challenged legally. In the meantime, however, one can't help but wonder: Can the police seize a car driven to an antiwar demonstration? Can Homeland Security confiscate a computer if "www.couragetoresist.com" is in the browser history? Has the Bush regime exercised its autocratic powers to the point where to venture dissent is to risk impoverishment? Can they really do that?

Jane Troutbeck lives in a vast free speech zone commonly referred to as the United States of America.

Veterans for Peace contingent at the Lakefair Parade, July 21, 2001. (Photo by Janet Blanding)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *submissions@olywip.org* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Chris Allert	Sandy Mayes
Janet Blanding	Patty Mosqueda
Dave Campbell	Phan Nguyen
Renee Cruickshank	hali panneton
Wally Cuddeford	Sandia Slaby
Christian DesMarets	Sylvia Smith
Brendan Funtek	Jeff Sowers
Drew Hendricks	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Scott Yoos

works in progress is made from scratch every month

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
Aug. 24

PO Box 295 • Olympia WA 98507
submissions@olywip.org • www.olywip.org

WIP Advertising
(360) 956-1136

7.25" x 4.75"	$125
4.75" x 4.75"	$83
3.0" x 4.75"	$52
4.0" x 2.25"	$34
3.5" x 2.25"	$30
2.25" x 2.25"	$20

4 Months for the price of 3

Special Non-Profit Rates

Only You Can Keep
Works in Progress Going
for another 17 Years

Subscriptions: o Individual – $35

o Low-Income – $15

o Please do not mail, I'll pick it up!

Support Progressive Journalism
If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

Name

Address

City State Zip

Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Free School Needs You!

Calling all facilitators! If you have a passion, skill, area of knowledge or any idea for a class, submit them now to the **Olympia Free School**. The deadline for submissions is August 15. Classes begin October 1 (Don't worry, you have plenty of time to plan).

To submit a class go to **olympiafreeschool.org** and click on "Facilitating, or call (360) 352-4165. If you have any questions, email info@olympiafreeschool.org or call us at (360) 352-4165.

Olympia-Rafah Mural Project

Would you like to see a mural in Olympia that commemorates the special relationship that our town shares with the Palestinian city of Rafah, in the Gaza Strip? Consider getting involved with the Olympia-Rafah mural project!

Artist and activist Susan Greene, a professor at the San Francisco Art Institute, will be working with a group of volunteers to plan and paint a mural in downtown Olympia. Your participation is needed to help develop ideas and themes for the mural, put together a fundraising plan, and scout for available wall space. To get involved, contact Erin Genia at **mural@rachelcorriefoundation.org**, or call the office of the **Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice** at (360) 754-3998.

Help resist nuclear annihilation... shop at the Olympia Food Co-op!

Few South Sounders are aware that the **Trident submarine base** at Bangor, WA (a mere 20 miles west of Seattle) now houses the **largest single stockpile of nuclear warheads in our nation's arsenal**. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has been struggling against this self-destructive madness since 1977.

Headquartered on a piece of property which directly abuts the Bangor base, GZ recently launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to replace their old house, (which burned in 2005). Thanks to an unprecedented agreement with the **Tovarish D. Wagster Fund**, the Olympia Food Co-op will be participating in this effort to rebuild the new Ground Zero Center.

Starting this August, the Co-op will be offering "free" working-member green cards to the first 50 people who donate $25 or more to the Ground Zero Building Fund. These special cards are good for 25% off on all purchases (up to $100), at either of the Olympia Food Co-op's locations.

For more information, please contact: www.gzcenter.org. Donations may be mailed directly to: Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

"No Talking Heads" – Local News, Local People

Sundays at 5 p.m., KAOS, 89.3 FM, Olympia

"No Talking Heads" is an hour-long locally produced weekly review of the news, starting local and expanding to statewide, regional, national and international news. We strive to offer local perspectives on news that is important to folks in the South Sound. We want to offer more than a cursory read of headlines. Hosted by **Howard Rosenfeld**, it airs every Sunday at 5pm on KAOS, 89.3 FM. We welcome your calls during the show at 360-867-5267. Tell us what news stories you're watching.

You can check the show blog for a run-down of news stories that we're tracking at **notalkingheads.blogspot.com**. You can also subscribe to our podcast here: **blogradio.libsyn.com**. The live show stream is accessible at **kaos.evergreen.edu**

Fast Food Nation

Friday, August 3 at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation—2200 East End Street NW—in West Olympia. Catch this movie series every First Friday of the month.

Inspired by the bestseller that exposed America's fast food industry. An eye-opening journey into the dark heart of the All-American meal. FAST FOOD NATION traces the birth of an everyday, ordinary burger through a chain of riveting, interlocked human stories - from a hopeful, young immigrant couple who cross the border to work in a perilous meat-packing plant; to a teen clerk who dreams of life beyond the counter; to the corporate marketing whiz who is shocked to discover that his latest burger invention - "The Big One" - is literally full of manure. This is a must see.

To find out more, visit www.sounddemocracy.org.

Meditate For Peace

Saturday, August 4, starting at noon and ending at noon on Sunday, August 5th, Tivoli Fountain, Capitol Campus, Olympia.

Join your neighbors for all or part of a 24-hour COMMUNITY MEDITATION FOR GLOBAL PEACE at the Tivoli Fountain on the Capitol Campus, downtown Olympia, from Noon Saturday August 4th through noon Sunday August 5th. The silent meditation will be punctuated each hour by the sound of a singing bowl. Please no signs or posters but chairs and flashlights are welcome. This non-sectarian event is in it's fourth year and is sponsored by Interfaith Works. For more information or to volunteer, call 360-357-7224 or visit our website at www.Interfaith-Works.org/cmgp1.html

Planning Meeting to ensure continued access to emergency contraception

Monday, August 6, 7 p.m., Olympia Timberland Library, 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia

Access to emergency contraception ("the morning after pill") has turned into a battleground for anti-choice advocates and women's rights supporters. Don't let the "bedroom police" turn back the clock on choice! We will be meeting to discuss options (including direct action and filing legal complaints with the Department of Health) for ensuring and improving continued access to emergency contraception in our community. For more information write to jwblanding@earthlink.net.

Sicko at the Capitol Theater

Capitol Theater, 206 5th Ave. SE, downtown Olympia

Sicko plays at Saturday, August 11 at 9:00, Sunday, August 12 at 5:00, Monday, August 13 at 9:00, Tuesday, August 14 at 6:30, Wednesday, August 15 at 9:00, Thursday, August 16 at 6:30, Friday, August 17 at 9:00, Saturday, August 18 at 6:00, Sunday, August 19 at 2;30 and 7:30, Monday, August 20 at 6:30, Tuesday, August 21 at 9:00, Wednesday, August 22 at 6:30, Thursday, August 23 at 9:00, Friday, August 24 at 6:30

Michael Moore's new film addresses the shameful state of health care in America, and visits England, France, Canada and Cuba to show us what "socialized medicine" looks like.

For more information see http://www.olyfilm.org.

PFLAG Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 12 from 1 to 5 pm
Priest Point Park, Olympia.

The Olympia chapter of **PFLAG**, Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, will be holding its annual picnic at Priest Point Park Sunday, August 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. All GLBTQ people, their family, friends and straight allies are welcome. The picnic is pot luck, side dishes and desserts are encouraged. The board will provide basics such as burgers and hotdogs (veggie and meat), buns, condiments and soft drinks. No alcoholic beverages. The picnic takes the place of the regular monthly meeting, which normally happens on the second Sunday of every month at First United Methodist Church. It is not just for PFLAG members. Friends and allies from the broader community are welcome. For complete information on the picnic and regular PFLAG meetings and activities, visit the PFLAG-Olympia Web site at **www.pflag-olympia.org**.

Green Party Picnic in the Park

Saturday, August 25, 5-9 pm, Burfoot Park, Olympia

The Green Party is hosting its annual picnic at Burfoot Park (open area), Saturday, August 25, from 5 to 9 PM.

Come and meet those wild-eyed, radical Greens – you probably have a lot in common with them. Eat hamburgers or veggie burgers, and bring a dish of your own. Hear a candidate or two as you munch. Play some games or visit the beach.Everyone welcome.

Voices in Wartime

Friday, September 7th at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation—2200 East End Street NW—in West Olympia. Catch this movie series every First (and sometimes second) Friday(s) of the month.

Voices in Wartime, a documentary that uses poetry to move us to the emotion of war explained by soldiers, civilians, journalists and medical personnel who have experienced the effects of combat firsthand. And through the hearts and emotions of those who have stayed at home, observed vicariously and mourned the fallen. The film gives a fresh perspective—stepping away to look at all wars—not just current conflicts. The terrible beauty of the poetry is our guide, distilling the grim realities and diverse emotions of war. History and literature have shown us that in times of war, poets can lead us to greater truths and that the power of poetry can help us understand the trauma, violence and death caused by armed conflict.

To find out more, visit www.sounddemocracy.org.

▸ **ANNOUNCEMENTS** continue on page 8

Works In Progress
has a new email address!
submissions@olywip.org

Getting out: A soldier's guide to early separation

by Seth Manzel

Getting out of the Army is not easy. It requires diligence and a fair amount of knowledge about the regulations regarding early separation. It is also not without consequences for the soldier. Early separation can lead to loss of VA benefits, dishonorable or less than honorable discharge, as well as an obligation to pay back bonus money. However, considering the current situation, it may be worth it. The following is an overview of some of the methods one might employ to gain his or her freedom from military service which include: conscientious objection, the Family Care Plan loophole, and violations of the Army's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

Conscientious objection

Conscientious objection is a big step that should not be taken lightly. It is time-consuming, involved, and very difficult. Few soldiers are approved for conscientious objector status each year. However, with persistence, it is not outside the realm of possibility for any given soldier.

The first step to becoming a conscientious objector is to formulate and commit to a strong and unshakable belief that taking human life, under any circumstances, is wrong. Furthermore, that belief should include a prohibition against contributing to killing in any way (like participating in non-combatant activities such as cooking). This belief can and should be based on some sort of religious belief. However, religious belief alone is not enough. The soldier must demonstrate that he or she has, through religious contemplation, come to believe that killing is wrong.

At this point one should take the time to memorize some Bible verses, if Christianity is the religion that he or she has chosen. Exodus 20:13, the Commandment against killing would be a good place to start. Matthew 7:12 says, "Do unto others as you would have them do on to you." Romans 3:10-18 is also good, although a little obtuse. It would be good to stay away from some of the many verses in the Bible that endorse killing (and there are many).

Buddhism is a good way to go as well, because its tenets are less familiar to most in the average chain of command. This means that it will be less likely that one's beliefs will be tested by religious discussion. One good book to read is the Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu.

Next, using FormFlow, fill out a DA 4187 (Request for Personal Action) stating that in accordance with AR 600-43 the soldier requests to be placed on Conscientious Objector Status (1-0). The 1-0 notes that the soldier will not participate in any military activity including cooking, being a chaplain's assistant or firefighting.

Upon filing the 4187 with one's chain of command, he or she can expect a strong reaction from superiors. From that moment on, the chain of command has 90 days (or 180 days for National Guard and Reserves) to make a determination in the case. This puts a strain on commanding officers that can elicit confused and sometimes unlawful retaliation. One should be familiar with the Inspector General's office. (A list of Inspector Generals for Washington State is included at the end of this article.)

Filing for conscientious objector status is a religious act, and any negative counseling, corrective training, punishment, or denial of privileges is against the law. If a soldier is subjected to any of the above after filing, he or she should report it to the Inspector General immediately. The soldier will be counseled on the process and consequences of his or her actions, and will also be barred from promotion and reenlistment and taken out of combat, but these are the only actions that a chain of command may take.

Once the process starts, the soldier will be taken to the Chaplain for further discussion. It should be noted that this conversation will not be privileged. The Chaplain will be trying to discredit the soldier and pass that along to his or her superiors. For this reason the soldier should avoid detailed religious arguments but stick to the basics. One should go no further than "thou shalt not kill" or "turn the other cheek." If the Chaplain presses hard, one shouldn't be swayed, stick to the basics – killing under any circumstances is wrong.

An officer who is not in the soldier's chain of command will be assigned to investigate. That officer will ask many of the same questions that the Chaplain does. His job is to gather all the paperwork, conduct interviews (including interviews with the soldier's friends), and make a recommendation for the board who will ultimately make the final decision.

At this point, if the soldier hasn't faltered, he or she may be offered promotions, special privileges, or threatened with punishments. This is a good indication that the process is moving along. One should not waver at this point. A board will determine the validity of any claims based on the evidence and the opinion of the investigating officer within 90 days of submission of the original document.

If any of the following occur, contact the Inspector General immediately:

Lost paperwork
Threats
Punishment
Corrective training
Slurs against one's religious beliefs
Extra duties
Violence
Bribery
More than 90 days passing without conclusion

The Family Care Plan chapter

A Family Care Plan is a comprehensive checklist for powers of attorney and child custody documents that allow a single parent, dual-military parent, or a parent whose partner is unable to take care of their children alone to deploy and leave their children in the hands of a competent and prepared guardian. The commander cannot force a soldier to file a Family Care Plan, as it is the equivalent of forcing them to give up custody of his or her children. According to AR 600-20, single parents or dual-military parents must file a Family Care Plan to remain on active duty. Therefore, if a soldier with custody of his or her children refuses to create a Family Care Plan, they must be separated from the Army.

While this is the rule, some commanders have refused to chapter soldiers who fail to file plans. Many legal battles have been fought over this issue, and while most turn out in the soldier's favor, it can still be a taxing ordeal. The best way to deal with the issue is to start out strong. As soon as resistance from a commander begins, one should call their IG and retain a lawyer. Hopefully, this will demonstrate to the chain of command that it will be easier to chapter the soldier than to fight.

One should expect to be barred from promotion and reenlistment; However, actions beyond that should be reported immediately. People shouldn't be punished for refusing to give up custody of their children.

"Don't ask, don't tell"

The "Don't ask, don't tell" policy upholds the military's long standing ban on homosexual acts under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It also does not allow the soldier to disclose his or her sexual orientation. However, soldiers are allowed to be homosexual as long as they are in the closet. This means that their sexuality can be an open secret. A soldier may participate in gay pride events, go to gay bars and possess non-pornographic gay literature. However, once he or she affirms that they are gay, the Army must act to separate them.

This is the fastest way out of the Army. From the commander's point of view, a gay soldier is a huge liability. Once a soldier comes out of the closet, his/her safety is the responsibility of the commander. Any acts of violence, torment, or abuse fall on the commander's shoulders.

Once a soldier comes out of the closet, he/she should expect to be immediately segregated from the other soldiers, perhaps put under guard. Again, this is not punishment; it is for the safety of the soldier. He/she will probably have their meals delivered to them or be escorted to and from the cafeteria. (This is especially true in war-fighting units.)

The commander will start an investigation into the matter. The soldier's effects will be searched and any evidence, including gay literature, will be noted and used as evidence. It is in the interest of the soldier that these items be readily available to the investigators.

The soldier should guard against the very real threat of violence. Homophobic peers and superiors have killed gay soldiers in the past. One shouldn't assume that just because he or she is under guard that they are safe from acts of violence. The guards themselves may present the most immediate threat. Any violence, punishment, extra duty, threats or slurs by anyone should be reported to IG immediately.

Homosexuality is still punishable under the UCMJ. For this reason, it is possible to receive a less than honorable discharge. This is not likely, as the commander will just be trying to get the soldier out as quickly as possible. In any case, once a soldier is out of the military, he or she can appeal and have it changed to a more favorable discharge.

Don't give up

Getting out of the Army can be difficult, dangerous, and have a lasting negative effect on one's life. However, considering the current situation, staying in the Army can be difficult, dangerous, and have a lasting negative effect on one's life, including death and dismemberment. Each individual should put a lot of time and consideration into the matter before acting. Specific regulations should be researched, consequences weighed, and souls should be searched.

Early separation should not be entered into lightly, but when one commits to the process, he/she should put their whole self into it. Once the process is started, the worst thing anyone can do is falter, stop or accept defeat.

Please consult the following list of Inspectors General:

Inspectors General in Washington State

I Corps & Ft Lewis	Ft Lewis	(253) 967-5181
70th RRC	Ft Lawton	(206) 281-3027
104th Div (IT)	Vancouver	(360) 906-4169
WRMC & Madigan AMC	Tacoma	(253) 968-2155
Western Region Cadet Cmd	Ft Lewis	(253) 967-3183
Washington NG	Tacoma	(253) 512-8898
81st INF BDE	Seattle	(206) 378-6539

A list of Inspectors General for all states is available at *www.olywip.org*.

Seth Manzel is a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Resisting the illegal occupation of Iraq from the inside

Agustín and Helga Aguayo

by Janet Blanding

War resisters Agustín Aguayo, Seth Manzel, and Aguayo's wife Helga spoke recently to a group of local peace activists gathered at Traditions Café on July 17. In defiance of the unspoken army policy of remaining silent after returning from war, they are speaking out about the injustices they have witnessed. Again and again the same themes emerged: a pattern of wartime abuses of civilians, tolerated and covered up by the military; deception and false promises used by recruiters to entice young people to enlist, followed by coercion and manipulation of enlisted men and women in order to retain personnel.

"Why keep a solider who's a malcontent?" asked Seth Manzel, recently returned from Iraq, as he shared his experiences with a capacity crowd at Traditions Café on July 18. According to Manzel, it's all about the numbers. Commanders are not measured by the cohesiveness of their unit, he explained. Instead, personnel stats are all-important; too many discharges look bad, and retention is becoming increasingly important for the army in these days of dwindling military recruitment.

As a consequence, conscientious objector (C.O.) claims are disregarded, as well as medical problems, drug use, and domestic violence problems. Army personnel trained as medics are forced to serve roles they shouldn't: Agustín Aguayo, as a medic, was put on guard duty for 12 months. Another medic he knew died checking a car bomb with his platoon leader. Yet another medic Aguayo knew was forced to serve as a gunner.

"You're going to be automatically disliked"

Aguayo applied for conscientious objector status but his application was denied by the military. When he originally applied for C.O. status, his sergeant told him that doing so would make his life harder. "He told me 'You're going to be automatically disliked,' and offered to let me throw away the paperwork." After taking his case to court, a judge who had been appointed during the first Bush regime, declared that because Aguayo wasn't religious, he couldn't be a conscientious objector – in essence, if you're not involved with an organized religion, you're not entitled to moral values. This ruling disregarded precedents set during the American war in Vietnam, when agnostics and atheists were able to obtain conscientious objector status.

Helga Aguayo, Agustín Aguayo's wife, has been a tireless crusader for not only her husband's right to resist, but for war resisters and the peace movement in general. She explained how the army does everything within its power to brainwash not only soldiers, but their families as well. First, they seduce young men and women to enlist with promises that are rarely delivered. Once in, considerable effort is expended to retain soldiers, and that effort includes pressuring families. "The minute Augie joined the military," she said, "we literally lost our freedom and our identity because the military controlled every aspect of our lives."

> "The minute Augie joined the military," she said, "we literally lost our freedom and our identity because the military controlled every aspect of our lives."

As a military wife, she would receive letters from the army, exhorting her to encourage her soldier to stick with the program. "They usually send letters to mothers because most of the soldiers are really young," she said. "Now that you can enlist up to age 37, maybe they're sending more letters to wives." The letters would instruct family members to encourage the soldier to "be very proud," and to assure him or her that "you're doing the right thing."

Military brainwashing

The letters weren't the only way the military tried to manipulate military families; when the Aguayo family was stationed in Germany, pro-military messages were part of the soldiers' children's education at the army school. The army also controlled what military families saw on television, showing English-language programs on a channel that played only military commercials. Helga Aguayo reports that these commercials promote "military pride." Promoting pride involves showing video and film footage of previous wars, including films of bombers attacking cities. The military pride commercials are expensively produced, reported Helga, with powerful imagery as well as catchy songs and jingles.

Some of the more sinister military commercials seen frequently by families watching army-controlled television warn against going AWOL, and speaking against the war. One memorable anti-AWOL commercial warned that being absent without leave was punishable by death, with the word "DEATH" posted on the screen in big black letters.

Other commercials attempt to entice army personnel to re-enlist. "They show all these commercials about services that they supposedly offer," said Helga Aguayo, "but they don't really exist when you try to get them." For example, Agustín Aguayo, who wears glasses, took notice when the army advertised that LASIK eye surgery was available for military personnel. When Aguayo went to the clinic, however, he was told that since he had only one year remaining on his contract, he was ineligible for the surgery. Clinic personnel directed him to the re-enlistment office. "Everything they offer," explained Helga, "they don't tell you the details until you actually go and ask about it. Then they say you have to 're-up' before you can get it."

"Moral waivers"

As the popularity of the illegal occupation of Iraq diminishes, the military is working harder to recruit – anyone. According to a recently published article in the *Boston Globe*, one out of every 8 soldiers who enlisted in the US army during 2007 received a "moral waiver," forgiveness for misdemeanor or felony charges that would previously have prohibited them from joining up. As Seth Manzel pointed out, typically after a domestic violation conviction, an individual is no longer allowed to purchase a firearm. In the army, however, former violent criminals are issued guns and set loose on the innocent civilian population of Iraq.

Agustín Aguayo, told the crowd at Traditions that the spirit of the US military in Iraq is becoming increasingly lawless, and people are looking the other way as soldiers steal items from Iraqi homes they are supposedly "securing," as well as abusing and harassing children and other noncombatants. He described an incident he observed in which soldiers offered a thirsty group of children a bottle of liquid to drink – it was urine. After the soldiers had a chuckle over this, the commanding officer told the men that what happened would not be "leaving this vehicle."

> Manzel added that Iraq has become such a dismal place for soldiers that "even the most hawkish are counting the days until they can get out."

"People are looking the other way when inappropriate things occur," said Agustín Aguayo. "There is a pattern of covering up by the powers that be that sends the message that it's okay to hurt these people."

Seth Manzel reported that during his recent tour of duty in Iraq, he came in contact with soldiers who were unstable, including former criminals and drug users who are retained by the army, given firearms, and not unsurprisingly, according to Manzel "often acted out violently." Manzel added that Iraq has become such a dismal place for soldiers that "even the most hawkish are counting the days until they can get out." He described how many soldiers, without resisting the occupation overtly, are no longer participating fully, relating that when his unit was supposed to go on patrol, they would sometimes "just go sit somewhere."

"Pissing hot"

Helga Aguayo, in a phone interview, revealed that not only is it becoming increasingly difficult to obtain C.O. status, the army is also refusing to discharge soldiers with medical, mental health, and drug problems. One soldier acquainted with the Aguayos also applied for conscientious objector status and, like Aguayo, was turned down. Desperate to avoid being returned to Iraq, this soldier deliberately used drugs in order to "piss hot," to fail a scheduled drug test. Helga Aguayo says that the first time he failed a drug test, he was merely warned, and the test results were not even recorded. Discharging soldiers for drug abuse is at the army's discretion; this particular man was not discharged until the fourth time he failed a drug test.

It is also becoming increasingly hard to receive a medical discharge. Agustín Aguayo knew of a soldier who had hernia surgery in Iraq, and was not allowed to return to the United States to recuperate before being returned to active duty. Another soldier had a hip replacement, and was redeployed when he wasn't yet even able to walk normally.

Agustín Aguayo eventually went AWOL, despite the army's warnings, and with Helga's support, fought the rejection of his C.O. claim legally. He was convicted of desertion and missing movement, and served eight months in the brig for these offenses. The legal fight to have these convictions overturned is ongoing; for more information, see *www.aguayodefense.org*.

Many other disaffected soldiers and families are trapped within a military machine that deceives them, controls them, and ultimately uses them for cannon fodder. Helga Aguayo describes how the process of fighting for her husband's freedom forced her "to become a powerful, assertive woman." One of her acts of resistance was to plaster an army base with stickers that read, "Wanna get out? Call us now," and gave contact info for a military counseling network run by German peace activists. The very next day, all the stickers she had put up had been removed by the military.

According to Agustín Aguayo, when you're in the army, "You feel that you're part of something bigger than yourself. You get the same feeling in the peace movement."

For more information about military resistance, see *www.couragetoresist.org*.

Janet Blanding is a volunteer for Works In Progress. She can be reached at jwblanding@earthlink.net.

VICS
PIZZERIA
360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

SOUTH SOUND
GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper
Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.
209 East 4th Ave., Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) **786-6349**
speech@olywa.net
www.olywa.net/speech

Centralia Square
Antique Mall
Restaurant
3 Floors to Explore
Open 7 days 10-5
South on Interstate 5
Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison, Right on Pearl
201 S. Pearl (& Locust)
facing Washington Park
www.MyAntiqueMall.com

Veteran status as privilege

by Wally Cuddeford

It's no secret the high esteem our society holds for veterans of the armed forces. One need only look at one's nearest calendar to see the exorbitant number of holidays devoted to soldiers, veterans, and the military, especially when compared to the number of holidays set aside for causes of social justice and popular liberation.

Parades and patriotic music fill the streets in celebration of our contracted mercenaries, while the people who fight and die in popular struggles in Oaxaca, Palestine, and Chiapas are forgotten. Prisoner of War flags abound, while people who are domestically incarcerated, and sometimes executed, under unjust motives go nearly unspoken of in the mainstream.

Even the word "veteran," unspecified as it is, has been reserved by society to mean "veteran of war or of the armed forces," a bias if ever there was one. This saturation of war glorification is of course no accident, but rather part of the pro-war propaganda mill at work. The goals are more support for imperialist wars, more acceptance of the military-industrial complex, and higher recruitment numbers.

What's strange is how the anti-war movement, ostensibly a movement with the long-term goal of breaking our society's addiction to and obsession with fascist militarism and the myth of heroism-through-warfare, has echoed these same sentiments time and again. "Support our troops" has been attached as a preamble to nearly everything the movement ever says. Every action is weighed in terms of how it may offend soldiers, veterans and their families, instead of how effective it is in helping end war and empire. And the true victims of our continued war campaigns, the millions of indigenous people here and abroad who have been murdered, raped, brutalized, and subjugated by our missiles and muskets, continue to be left out of our rhetoric.

This "support our troops first" ethic is reflected in many movement veterans. Many "anti-war" veterans condemn the current war in Iraq, while glorifying past conflicts (perhaps the ones they fought in). When asked why the Iraqi occupation is so criminal, many will say it's because of "bad intelligence," "poor planning," "lack of material support (bullets and armor) for our troops," and, conveniently, "failure to take care of our vets when they get back." They shout Marine Corps slogans, wear their "I helped kill lots of people" medals and decorations as badges of honor, and run their anti-war organizations like mini-militaries with authoritative hierarchies. And they love waving that flag. You know the one: The most murderous, genocidal, and imperialist flag in all of human history. Woe to those who would challenge, desecrate, or speak ill of the troops, the military as an institution, or that flag in their presence.

Why do we think of people who would glorify the military and exalt soldiers as anti-war allies? Contrary to popular belief, the anti-war movement is not in the habit of working with any old group that claims opposition to the occupation of Iraq. The Minutemen (racist border-patrollers), the Westboro Baptist Church (the "God Hates Fags" people), and various neo-Nazi groups all claim opposition to the occupation of Iraq, but their opposition is grounded in hate and bigotry. We don't let them anywhere near our organizing, not even as temporary issue-specific allies. We know that once we wed our movement to racism and hate, it's very hard to divorce them. So it seems odd that we would so willingly wed our movement, aimed at ending the occupation of Iraq as the first step toward ending war, imperialism, and militarism at large, to the notion that soldiers are inherently heroic, that military service is to be glorified, and that the criminality of war lies on the shoulders of those who give criminal orders and not on those who follow them. Given our immediate rejection of other counter-productive alliances, it seems that we, on some level, truly do know better.

The reasons behind our acceptance of such a skewed view as being "anti-war" are nuanced, but one key reason is that we have long since established veteran status as a movement privilege. People in the movement treat your average veteran activist as automatically having accomplished more for the cause of social justice than your average non-veteran activist. Well-intentioned activists, and even some respected anti-war veterans, frequently say that vets should be the "leaders" of the anti-war movement. Veterans are bussed and flown around the country just for being vets (not even necessarily for being combat vets of the particular war in question). For my part, I can say I've been chosen to do interviews and speak on behalf of groups as large as 22 people, just because I was the vet of the group.

As with any class of people given unquestioned deference, many veterans have taken their privilege and, instead of challenging it, or at least trying to use it for the good of all, have consolidated it and used it to entrench their power. Some "anti-war" veterans organize into cliques, without any particular strategy other than to simply exist as groups of anti-war vets. Veterans are routinely identified within anti-war organizing meetings, where there is no public credibility gain to be had. I've even been told horror stories of veterans in meetings actually pulling out their I.D. cards to claim some sort of higher authority over the non-veterans.

Many anti-war veterans groups and soldiers' families groups (who enjoy the same privilege) routinely dictate to groups they work with what the message from an action will be. The same groups that practice this sort of message orchestration seem obsessed with making the salvation of imperialist soldiers the focus of war opposition, with finding every reason to forgive soldiers for their criminal participation in war, and with making sure words like "murder" are only used in reference to certain Presidents. Individuals who openly challenge this skewed rhetoric are frequently targeted for discredit and removal by these groups, putting non-veterans in the position of either standing up for viewpoint diversity or losing their more valued allies.

Most counter-productive of all, veterans groups have had a recent history of selective support of other anti-war organizers. A local chapter of Veterans for Peace (the largest and most diverse umbrella group for anti-war veterans) refused to endorse a student march from Olympia to Fort Lewis two years ago on the grounds that the soldiers might think organizers were confronting them. A year later, the same chapter refused to endorse the protests at the Port of Olympia, once again because they thought it might appear anti-troop. Chapters of other soldier-related groups, such as Military Families Speak Out, have threatened to withdraw support for key coalitions if the other groups don't toe their line.

In a society that holds veterans to such high regard, we do have a powerful voice with which to challenge empire, but that power must be used for the good of others. We must relinquish our desire to "own" the issue of war, as painful as it may be to do so.

The movement is then coerced into operating on an agenda formed not through discourse, or through an objective look at our goals and what we need to do to achieve them, but through a UN Security Council style system of permission and denial, with veterans groups and soldiers' families groups as the vanguard. Such a system has dangerous consequences for our movement, and for the positive goals we hope to achieve. It can only serve to cease discussion, limit diversity of tactics, and to alienate our allies who will never be in "the club." Is it any wonder a few anti-imperialists, frustrated with unfair treatment and a skewed focus, have taken to retaliating with banners and postings that say "Fuck the troops"?

Unlike most privileges we have to deal with, which are multi-layered and complex, veteran privilege within the movement is rather straight-forward. Veteran privilege starts when the movement decides to oppose war primarily for the soldiers who choose to fight it, and not for the victims whose voices we don't hear. When the soldiers are the focus of the anti-war movement, it only makes sense that veterans would lead the charge. Veterans have been there, if not in direct combat, then at least as prisoners of the institutions we are fighting against. Veterans can better relate to soldiers (and vice-versa), because they've been in the soldiers' boots.

But when the focus becomes the true victims of war, the indigenous peoples of the nations we're bombing, exploiting, and subjugating, that dynamic changes. It's absurd to assume that someone who once signed up to help kill poor people for money automatically knows what's best for indigenous peoples. It's illogical to assume a combat veteran has a clearer perspective into the politics of empire and the subjugation of societies than someone who has spent years studying these issues. And finally, veterans are simply too close to the subject of war criminality to be truly objective.

This is not to say that veterans don't have a place in the movement, or that we shouldn't identify or organize as vets. Indeed, Iraq Veterans Against the War continues to be one of the loudest voices in the call to escalate our active resistance, and veterans and vet groups have been significantly represented in the GI resistance support movement, which is a key front in the struggle to end war.

In a society that holds veterans to such high regard, we do have a powerful voice with which to challenge empire, but that power must be used for the good of others. We must relinquish our desire to "own" the issue of war, as painful as it may be to do so. We must throw our support behind our allies' struggles, even if theirs are not the struggles we would engage in ourselves. When we wear our uniforms and medals, we must do so to challenge assumptions and to lend credibility to our non-veteran allies, and not to reinforce our own privileges. And we must never withhold our solidarity from our allies for any but the most destructively misguided expressions of personal frustration.

If we are to stop not just this war, but every war, veterans and soldier-aligned groups must forfeit ownership of the issue of war. We must acknowledge that, no matter our pain, the people directly victimized by war and empire will always have it worse. We must learn to work as equals with students, labor, and the anti-war community at large. By giving our unconditional support to these allies, the discussion will become more honest and enriching, and tactics and strategies will be more easily weighed by their effectiveness and not by sentimentality. Ensuring that kind of solidarity is a key step in turning dissidence into resistance.

Wally Cuddeford is an anti-war activist, a veteran of the United States Navy, and a lifelong resident of Olympia, Washington.

Left: A banner displayed by members of Veterans for Peace at an anti-war rally in Washington, DC, January 27, 2007. (Photo from anti-war.net)
Right: A banner displayed by participants in an anti-war demonstration in Portland, Oregon, March 18, 2007. (Photo by Jim Lockhart)

Charges dismissed for 13 Port of Tacoma activists

City prosecutors learn the difference between a pedestrian on a sidewalk and a vehicle in traffic

by Mark Jensen

On July 18, a Tacoma judge dismissed thirteen cases stemming from last March's antiwar protests on the grounds that the statute under which defendants were charged was inapplicable. Tacoma Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem Karl D. Haugh's ruling dropped to ten the number of still unresolved cases stemming from March 2007 Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) protests during which police made a total of thirty-seven arrests.

The protests, which continued for ten days, occurred when Fort Lewis moved equipment for the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division through the Port of Tacoma as part of President George W. Bush's unpopular "surge" of US troops to Iraq. As of July 8, fifteen of the 4/2 Brigade's soldiers have been killed in Iraq and 108 have been wounded, according to the Tacoma News Tribune.

The PMR protests were the occasion for an extraordinary militarized police response that astonished observers and on occasion inflicted violence on peaceful protesters. Videos seen by hundreds of thousands on YouTube have given the protests nationwide notoriety. (To view these, search for "Tacoma" and "port" on YouTube.)

Judge rules that law is inapplicable

Wednesday's ruling affected only those defendants charged under Chapter 46 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Tacoma Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem Karl D. Haugh ruled that the statute under which the protesters were charged did not apply "to an individual where there is no traffic."

Judge Haugh received legal briefs and heard twenty minutes of legal argument on the applicability of RCW 46.61.015.

The law states: "(1) No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any duly authorized flagger or any police officer or fire fighter invested by law with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic. (2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor."

The preamble, RCW 46.61.005, states that "[t]he provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways except: (1) Where a different place is specifically referred to in a given section."

The defendants were arrested while walking on sidewalks, or when there was no traffic nearby.

Attorney Lawrence A. Hildes of Bellingham, who represents many of the defendants, pointed out that in its brief the City of Tacoma provided "nothing in case law or statutory interpretation that shows this law applies to anything other than vehicular traffic."

Judge Haugh, who had raised the question of the statute's applicability at a pretrial hearing on Jun. 8, asked City of Tacoma attorney Charles Lee: "Which of these arrestees was interfering with traffic?" Pressed, Lee replied: "In the way you phrased it, the City is not alleging they were arrested for interfering with traffic."

"When someone is arrested, it comes with the potentiality of punitive measures that can affect their life for a long time, or for all their life," Judge Haugh replied. "I have the responsibility to make sure the law applies."

Courtroom erupts in applause

Lee admitted he could cite no case law applying RCW 46.61.015 to non-vehicular traffic. Judge Haugh then said: "I'm dismissing the cases against the defendants who are here on the charge of disobeying a flagman." The courtroom on the second floor in Tacoma's City-County Building, packed with defendants and their supporters, erupted in applause. "I don't want to hear any yeas or nays," Judge Haugh admonished, and the outburst subsided.

The defendants whose cases were dismissed were Charles B. Bevis, Leah E. Coakley, Dennis H. Dutton (Tenzing Karma Wangchuk), Patrick A. Edelbacher, Somerset D. Fetter, Elizabeth (Liz) Rivera Goldstein, William (Wes) W. Hamilton, Thomas McCarthy, Phan Nguyen, Gloria (Sasha Crow) J. Norton, Matthew W. Reiss III, Jody L. Tiller, and Karen Weill.

> "When someone is arrested, it comes with the potentiality of punitive measures that can affect their life for a long time, or for all their life," Judge Haugh replied. "I have the responsibility to make sure the law applies."

Judge Haugh set Aug. 17 as the date for further argument on other dismissal motions. With reference to a request from Hildes for discovery of the identity of seven unnamed members of an "intelligence team" cited in police reports, he gave the City of Tacoma until July 25 to respond.

Legal thicket remains

For some of the defendants, the ruling lifts a legal cloud that has been hanging over them for more than a year, since the PMR movement had its inception in 2006 in Olympia, when protesters organized against the movement of Stryker equipment through the Port of Olympia. (Geov Parrish recently reviewed the history of the movement.)

Asked how it felt to have had all outstanding charges against him dismissed, Phan Nguyen of Olympia said: "It feels great." Nguyen was arrested in Tacoma on March 11 for carrying a backpack with nothing in it but a copy of the United States Constitution.

Many of the branches in the legal thicket that has grown up around the PMR protests have yet to be untangled, however. Still outstanding are cases against ten defendants (Jeffrey Berryhill, Sky Ogawa Cohen, Wally Cuddeford, Caitlin Esworthy, Jesus Aristeo Lopez, John C. McGee, Alicia C. Portillo, Peter K. Ryan, Jesse P. Schulz III, and Fiona E. Thompson). In addition, a number of civil suits against the City of Tacoma are expected. Attorney Hildes has said in the past that the City's belated decision to prosecute some of the cases may be a retaliatory, defensive measure.

Among those attending Wednesday's courtroom proceedings was TJ Johnson, a member of the Olympia City Council. Johnson was arrested on March 11 at the Port of Tacoma while delivering a "Citizen's Injunction to Halt the Shipment of Military Material to Iraq." Charges against Johnson and 13 others arrested that day were not filed, for reasons the City of Tacoma has never explained.

Port of Tacoma, March 11, 2007. Police in full riot gear prepare to load into a bus dangerous offenders who would be charged with, among other things, violating traffic laws by wearing backpacks on a public sidewalk. No doubt the riot gear came in handy, if only to assist the police in attaining the proper mindset to enforce unlawful orders. (Photo by Carrie Lybecker)

Why the Port Militarization Resistance cases are important

The PMR cases involve issues of national importance. Along with the movement to impeach George W. Bush and/or Dick Cheney and the intense pressure on Congress that led to this week's all-night debate in the US Senate, Port Militarization Resistance constitutes a strand in the rope the American people are braiding in order to rein in a government that has, in the opinion of many, lost respect for essential principles of legality and constitutionality.

While the various Tacoma PMR cases differ in their circumstances, all involve protesters who objected to the use of the publicly-owned Port of Tacoma to ship vehicles, weapons, and other equipment to a military venture that has lost its political legitimacy and that they view as illegal.

Mark Jensen is a member of United for Peace of Pierce County (WA) and of the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University.

Pictured to the left are five of the 23 activists arrested at the Port of Tacoma on March 11, 2007. From left to right: TJ Johnson, Dennis "Tenzing" Dutton, Patrick Edelbacher, Somerset Fetter (kneeling), and Phan Nguyen. With the exception of Johnson, all were charged with violating traffic laws, even though their arrests had nothing to do with traffic. No charges were filed against Johnson.

This photo was taken inside the holding cell at the Tacoma police station. Notice that Tenzing is still wearing the bag that he was arrested for carrying and which the police claimed was a security threat. All charges that were filed against the March 11 arrestees have been dismissed. (Photo taken by cellmate Wes Hamilton.)

STYLING · CUTS · COLOR · PERMS
FREE CONSULTATIONS · FREE BANG TRIMS
DEEP CONDITIONING · MANICURES · PEDICURES · MASSAGE · ASTROLOGY · TAROT
"We'll trim it, rub it, or read it"
JAMIE LEE & COMPANY
309 E. 4TH AVE.
OLYMPIA, WA 98501
360-786-6027
JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM
KAOS patron business.
BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

What were the police thinking?

During the March 2007 protests at the Port of Tacoma, most of the police wore full riot gear, including helmets that covered their faces, making it difficult to ascertain what was going on in their heads.

Fortunately, *Works in Progress* obtained many of the Tacoma Police reports of the demonstrations, and it's weirder than we could have imagined.

Some police made their views toward the Iraq war known, such as one officer who reported that the "protesters were objecting to the *war effort*" and keeping "munitions [from] being shipped over seas *to assist the troops in the field*." [emphasis added]

At least two other officers only referred to the protesters in quotes, as if it was questionable whether they could really be called "protesters."

A third officer repeatedly referred to the activists as "protesters/ anarchist" [*sic*].

In fact, the Tacoma police had an obsession with anarchists, although none of them demonstrated any true understanding of anarchism. They employed their ignorance to their benefit, ascribing unknown threats and their extreme measures to an imaginary anarchist scourge.

For instance, Officer Jared Matheson reported that, "These people wore red and black or white on black in stark juxtaposition against each other-- (I have been trained that these colors are associated with anarchist groups.)"

Officer Keith Miller reported that some demonstrators had their faces covered by "red or black bandanas which within protest groups signifies an alliance with the anarchy movement."

Sgt. James Barrett confiscated what he claimed was a red, white and blue "anarchist flag," which he stated would "be maintained as a training tool by the Disorder Response Team."

Yet for all this professed knowledge of anarchists, at least a couple police officers seemed to think that the plural of anarchist was, well, "anarchist," as in, "...our undercover officers advised of 35 anarchist [*sic*] leaving Olympia northbound on I-5 en-route to Tacoma." Such repeated references confirmed that it was no mere typographical error.

Another "intelligence report" was cited as follows: "Of patricular [*sic*] note is that intel advised a group of Anarchists would be arriving from Oregon to join the Washington protesters with their event. This was evident when a small group of 5 or so protesters arrived on scene and they and the larger group started chanting 'Anarchy, Oregon' over and over."

The police contrived threats where there were none, such as Officer Arthur Richwald, who reported, "One person was found to have bottles of vinegar/ malox [*sic*] which if mixed together in a plastic bottle will cause an overpressure detonation." Actually, apple cider vinegar and the antacid Maalox are used to counter and treat the effects of pepper spray and tear gas. When mixed together, it causes...nothing.

Additionally the police made numerous references to the presence of street medics and legal observers, which to them indicated that the demonstrators were looking for trouble.

One interesting report referenced the questioning of an Asian American activist, who was described in the police report as "Fu Manchu."

A larger examination of the police response to activists at the Port of Tacoma will appear in a future edition of *Works in Progress*.

More and more activist dismissals!

The Port of Tacoma dismissals come in a string of other recent dismissals in court cases against local antiwar activists. Of particular note is the involvement of the activist legal team of Larry Hildes and Karen Weill, who were instrumental in securing dismissals in all of these cases and who have provided their services either pro bono or at minimal costs.

Olympia 22

20 activists were arrested for allegedly crossing an invisible line at the Port for Olympia on May 30, 2006. Following a mistrial, cases were dismissed for the final 16 activists on June 12, 2007, due to "gross negligence" on the part of the government. Incidentally, the Tacoma city prosecutors attended every single day of the Olympia 22 trial, taking notes for use in the Tacoma cases. No wonder they're losing!

Indian Island 37

On September 23, 2006, 37 activists were arrested in front of Indian Island naval base. The prosecution decided the case was not worth pursuing and skipped the court hearing on May 29, 2007, leaving the judge to infer that the case should be dismissed.

Flag 3

Three Olympia activists were arrested at a World Can't Wait rally in Seattle on October 5, 2006. Prior to joining the rally, the activists were sitting in a park eating a melon when their anarcho-syndicalist flag was snatched by Seattle police officer Matthew Hyra, who claimed that the flag was "a symbol of violence." When one of the activists attempted to photograph Officer Hyra, Hyra became enraged and initiated an altercation that resulted in charges of obstruction, resisting arrest, and investigation of assault of an officer. All the charges were eventually dismissed.

Aberdeen

On May 6, 2007, police pulled over a car that they recognized was carrying Olympia activists to a PMR march at the Port of Aberdeen. The driver was charged with DUI even though he had not been drinking and had passed two sobriety tests. The case was dismissed on July 19.

The First Amendment prevails, despite efforts by the "free press"

by Gar Lipow

On July 10 and July 17, the Olympia City Council addressed an issue in which the city and the *Olympian* stopped an 85-year-old woman from handing out brochures in the Olympia Center public areas.

The result: The City Council said that there is definitely a right to hand out literature in lobbies and foyers of public buildings so long as it is done in a non-disruptive manner. This also includes the right to carry signs not on sticks—again subject to common sense, like not blocking traffic or visibility. The exclusion of people with literature and flimsy cardboard signs from the hallway of the Olympia Center was definitely contrary to City of Olympia public policy. No change in policy is needed, the council says, because this sort of free speech is already allowed in the City of Olympia.

They said that public events held in public buildings—not weddings and such, but free public forums—should have some free speech provision even within the event, again consistent with not allowing the public event to be disrupted.

The events ordinance the City Council passed some months ago regarding multi-day festivals also requires free speech provisions as a condition of the permit. This does not take effect until January 1, 2008, so it did not apply to Lakefair this year.

However, according to Cathie Butler Communications Manager at the City of Olympia, the city has an agreement with Lakefair to allow free speech at Lakefair. This year, Lakefair provided "free speech areas" at 5th and Water Street and also at Percival Landing. Prior to the start of Lakefair, Cathie Butler spoke with the city attorney to clarify.

See the front page article, "Dismantling Our Constitutional Rights" to read an excerpt from a memo Cathie Butler wrote to Gar Lipow regarding free speech at Lakefair.

What follows is the statement Ruth Lipow made to the Olympia City Council regarding the Olympian*'s attempt to curb free speech:*

On Monday, July 2, the *Olympian* sponsored a health care forum in the city-owned Olympia Center. The *Olympian* rented rooms A, B, and C, and no other facility within the center. In fact, classes were going on at the time.

The *Olympian* declared, as part of the rules of the forum, that no signs or leaflets would be allowed—not only in the facility they had rented, but within any of the public space within the center, including the hallway. They posted a sign over the entrance reading, "No Signs Inside".

About 12 people, some from the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP), some from the Kucinich campaign, and some from the *Olympian*'s own printers union came to hand out leaflets and carry signs to peacefully and non-disruptively present information not dealt with in the forum.

For example, the *Olympian*'s forum never mentioned that one out of three health care dollars in the US is spent on red tape, nor that we spend more than everyone else, nor that our health care system is rated lower in quality than that of most rich nations.

When we got [to the Olympia Center], a number of hostile looking police were there to enforce the *Olympian*'s declaration of no signs or literature *inside the building*—not inside the facility the *Olympian* had rented, but *anywhere* inside the public building.

"The *Olympian* rented the whole facility," we were told. "You are not getting in there with those signs or that literature." I admit I did not try it. I'm an 85 year old woman. It is fairly easy for a police officer to intimidate me. We handed out our leaflets on the sidewalk, where they were not accessible to most people entering the building.

The *Olympian* often has editorials on the First Amendment when the rights of the press are violated. But apparently they favor freedom of speech and free access to information only for themselves; they are perfectly happy to break the law to deny it to others.

I would say that the police should apologize and be reprimanded in this matter, and the *Olympian* print (as apology) a joint op-ed from the OMJP and the Kucinich campaign, to give people access to the information the *Olympian* and the Olympia Police Department jointly and illegally suppressed at the forum.

I will add that I hope that when many people from across the Pacific Northwest come to peacefully protest warships at Lakefair, this does not represent the kind of illegal intimidation that will be used against people exercising their First Amendment rights on public property.

Ruth Lipow (with umbrella) marching in the Lakefair parade. Her son Gar Lipow is on the far left, holding a sign that says "We have public fire depts., why not public health care? (Photo by Jane Blanding)

Promoting tolerance for GLBTQ youth

by Stonewall Youth

On June 6, the Stonewall Youth Speakers Bureau went to Washington Middle School to facilitate a day-long series of conversations about bullying and intolerance in relation to growing up identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or queer. We spoke to six different groups with 120 students in each one, as well as staff.

In the days that followed, there was a lot of news coverage given to the host of angry parents from Washington Middle School who were outraged at the presentation and at what they felt was a failure on the part of the administration to properly notify them.

Stonewall Youth's workshop was part of a yearlong series of presentations about diversity and bias-based bullying and how people are affected by intolerance. They were a project of the school's Diversity Club, organized in part by Samantha Chandler. The workshop was listed in the school's newsletter that goes out to families.

It seems tempting to want to address the issues that parents presented to justify their frustrations and fear of their kids attending this assembly. However, we thought it would be much more useful to talk about the nature of our program, and why we think it is important that discussions like these happen between young people.

The Stonewall Youth Speakers Bureau is a youth organized and facilitated presentation about issues affecting queer youth. It uses stories as a way to connect us to those issues. It allows us to see our experiences in the context of the forces that are continually acting on the world.

"It is rare to find younger people concerned with issues involving the community, country, or even the world because voices are shut out and silenced and the ones who do want to have a voice in certain issues aren't always heard. Stonewall Youth Speakers Bureau is an outlet for both the speakers and the people listening because the speakers use personal stories that can't be argued against and the conversations brought up are used to empower people instead of telling them that their opinions and views are wrong and invalid. It is also more of a way to show people that everything in the world affects everybody."

Brandon Felver is an active member of Stonewall Youth and a lead organizer with the Speakers Bureau.

"If I can reach one person and get them to stop the perpetuation of heterosexism, then I have done my part to better the society that my generation will inherit. Stonewall's Speakers Bureau has given me an opportunity to go out in the community and actively work toward my goals in regards to the betterment of society. I think that much of the information that people get today on social justice issues has been given to them by 'experts,' and I can tell you that most 'experts' have education, not experience. That's why I think that it is so important that these groups are led and facilitated by the youth that have been directly impacted by the issues that we discuss. It has also helped me grow as a person by being on a panel with other queer youth who have shared the same or similar experiences as myself, and I can say that it is an empowering experience."

Steven Briggs, 17, has been in Stonewall Youth for two years, and has done over 10 panels for the organization.

> "We are not going in trying to sell being gay or to challenge your values. We go in and we tell our stories of what happened to us."

"I believe the Speakers Bureau is extremely important. Growing up queer, I never felt like I had a place or anyone I could talk to. This feeling is not uncommon for youth, gay or straight. The fact, is it's hard growing up no matter who you are. We are not going in trying to sell being gay or to challenge your values. We go in and we tell our stories of what happened to us; stories of sadness and strength, but mostly survival. We go in to be that person who says even if you're different, for whatever reason, that doesn't mean you can't feel safe in school or in life. We are showing them that there is life after grade school, middle school, and high school. If you're true to yourself, and respect others, it can turn out great."

Joe Reyes has been a participant at Stonewall Youth for several years and has been a dedicated organizer for the Speakers Bureau.

Olympia prides itself on being a pretty progressively minded place. We hear a lot about how intolerance and bullying are not acceptable. It's time to really give form to these ideals we hear championed so much.

What values are we promoting? What are the messages we send to our community? How are we ensuring that a genuine respect for each other is being cultivated and sustained?

We are invested in social change happening through our commitment as a community to dialogue, to talking about ideas, to deepening our understandings of each other and the ways that we experience the world.

For more information on the Speakers Bureau, please contact Kristyn at sysb@qwest.net, *or at 360.705.2738.*

Stonewall Youth in the Capital City Pride parade, June 17, 2007. (Photo by Janet Blanding)

▸ **ANNOUNCEMENTS** continued from page 2

Design for a Loving Future Conference—LINK Symposium

September 20 to September 24, 2007
(Olympia, with free shuttle to Seattle)

The Annual International Love, Imagine, Network and Kindness (LINK) Symposium 2007 is a permaculture, peak oil, healthcare design and multicultural community symposium! Registration includes admission to the Millersylvania Park Environmental Learning Center, room, board, computer use, all workshops, study materials, resource binders, a CD with seminar materials, workshop tours, the multicultural unity cruise and more!

Look for details in the Spring and Summer (pg 78) issues of Communities Magazine; the July/August issue of Z Magazine; the August 1st, 2007 issue of Permaculture Activist Magazine and many more! Speakers include Mike Pelly, the president of Olympia Green Fuels (visit our website to hear the National Public Radio Interview), Alvina Wong with Evergreen College Independent media Group, Chriset Palenshus works at the Center for Community-Based Learning and Action at The Evergreen State College, Women of Color Coalition, and many more!

Visit our website www.blueskylink.org for a photo gallery, flyers and more. Sponsored non-corporate ads (click on 'ads and sponsorships') and speaker proposals accepted. Early Bird discounts. www.blueskylink.org

South Sound Voices: Poetry in Wartime

Wednesday, September 26 at 7 pm
Minnaert Center for the Performing Arts,
South Puget Sound Community College,
2011 Mottman Rd SW, Olympia, WA, 98512

South Sound Voices introduces the Voices in Wartime education project to local colleges and high schools. "We use art, poetry and education to heal from the affects of violence and war. Teachers and students seek ways to explore the most important issues of our day. We create a dialogue in which all voices can be heard, and all points of view included, without engendering fear, hatred or anger," explains Andrew Himes, Executive Director of Voices in Wartime.

South Sound Voices is proud to present: Sam Hamill, recipient of 2005 Washington Poets Association Lifetime Achievement Award; Dunya Mikhail, Bill Ransom, Sarah Zale, and Ray Seitz. A brief panel discussion with audience involvement will follow the readings. For further information see www.voicesinwartime.org/Home/default.aspx. Sponsors include Northwest Social Justice Fund, the Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Fund. The program is endorsed by Veterans for Peace, Poets Against War, SpokenwordLAB (SPLAB), Voices in Wartime.

Marco Rosaire Rossi marching with the Veterans for Peace contingent in the Lakefair parade, July 21, 2007. (Photo by Janet Blanding)

The Responsibility of Our Generation

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

Every generation is faced with a responsibility, an event that tests the humanity of all people for that time. For our generation that challenge is ending the conflict in Iraq and working to bring peace and prosperity to the Middle East. No other single event intertwines all the crises of our age: environmental, economic, cultural. And no other region of the world focuses our attention more, whose future is more likely to determine if the world will rise to peace or plunge into a third world war.

It is fair to say the situation in Iraq, and the Middle East in general, has surpassed the confines of crimes against humanity, and has approached the level of genocide. The mayhem in Iraq, along with Palestine, Afghanistan, and the Kurdish situation in Turkey, demonstrates a loss not just of lives - but of people. Over the past twenty-five years Iraq has lost around a million people, Iran over a million, and tens of thousands in Palestine over war, economic sanctions, occupation, and collapse of infrastructure. Whole cultures, whole identities are being destroyed, perspectives lost, experiences forgotten.

Just as the magnitude of the horror reaches toward the worst of humanity, the magnitude of our hope for a better world reaches toward the best of humanity. The outcry from ordinary citizens and the international community has been the moral sabo clogging and stalling the machines of war. There is a growing sentiment that our technology has become so vast and our ecosystem so fragile that we, as a global humanity, cannot afford to rally against certain wars while fighting others – we must rally against all war at all times.

On the eve of the United States attack on Iraq, President Bush went before the United Nations General Assembly and announced that his administration would attack Iraq with or without the approval of the Security Council. For years this had been the routine of the United States. For the empire, addressing the United Nations is a ritual – not a legal mandate. But this time it was different. Millions of people around the world called the United States out on its lies, and took to the streets against the invasion. Never before had the call for peace been so united, and never before had fundamental questions of war and violence been probed – even by those in power. As Dr. Robert Muller, former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, declared: "Never before in the history of the world has there been a global, visible, public, open dialogue and conversation about the very legitimacy of war... This is a miracle. This is what 'waging peace' looks like."

The outbreak didn't stop the invasion but it did do three things: it forced the United States into a corner where it had to offer some token forms of international cooperation, it gave the pacifist/anti-imperialist perspective much needed limelight, and it threw an international peace movement into the streets – and keeps it there today.

Protests in Spain swept the socialist party into power and forced the country to pull its troops out of Iraq; a protest in Rome against the war drew 1.5 million people; tens of thousands marched in London and played a factor in Prime Minister Tony Blair's resignation; in Athens Greece, over 10,000 marched on the US embassy; on one day Japan 150,000 took to the street against the war; in Iraq itself, hundreds of oil workers have gone on strike and religious leaders continue to rally their communities to find peace; and in the United States, the place were peace is most necessary, support for the war and the president have plummeted even among military personnel.

Despite the efforts of those in power, resistance is alive, and is working. City Councils across the United States have passed resolutions against the PATRIOT Act, the war, and for impeachment; activist continue to risk health and comfort by going on hunger-strikes and getting arrested outside at congressional offices; and across the west coast, the military shipments outside of ports have had to deal with constant protest and civil disobedience when trying to get weapons to Iraq.

Underlining all this resistance is a renewed sense of democracy and citizenship. But unlike the liberal democracy of industrialized nations, this new sense of democracy understands its responsibility to be global, not national; its economy to be social, not private; its participation to be direct, not representative; and its creators to be common people, not elites. Gandhi often tried to shed the claims to sainthood that others threw on him. He considered himself to be an "average person with below average skills." He was right. History is not made by the miracles of geniuses or the schemes of people in power. It is made by average people with below average skills, by common people, by the masses of the world who are willing to be the harbingers of the future out of a sense of collective decency.

We are approaching some of the darkest times for humanity, but this darkness is not totalizing. There is a noticeable growing light in the form of the people's call for peace and justice. If we are to escape our own ruin, then we must realize that this light is more than a spark – it's a twilight. It is for us to decide if this twilight represents the closing of a day and succumbing to the darkness, or the opening of a new morning and a new history. Our choice rests literally between universal death and a new paradise, and our responsibility is to find that new paradise.

Marco Rosaire Rossi, a regular contributor to Works in Progress and effective peacemaker, will soon leave Olympia to spend a year in the sunnier climes of Costa Rica. We'll miss you, dude!

BLUE HERON BAKERY

Whole Grain Baking Since 1977
Natural Before it was Fashionable.

Breads, Cookies, Pastries, Granola
Espresso, Biscotti, Nuts and Trail Mixes

4935 Mud Bay Rd, Olympia 98502
www.blueheronbakery.com

(360) 866-2253 (BAKE)

7 am to 6 pm
Seven days a week

Traditions
Cafe & World Folk Art

"Care to know where your money goes?"
Support **Fair Trade** with low-income artisans and farmers and you *will*...

We are:
- A center for fairly-traded products from around the world
- A café with good food
- A performance space for concerts, classes, forums, and more

www.**traditionsfairtrade**.com
300 5th Ave SW, Olympia • 705-2819
"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

CAFE VITA Coffee Roasting Co.

CAFFÉ VITA
124 4th Avenue East
Olympia, WA 98501

- Organic & Fair Trade Certified Roaster
- Exceptional whole bean, single origin & organic coffee offerings
- Great meeting location for small groups
- Free WiFi

Open Daily 7am – 8pm
www.caffevita.com

Recent events in support of Palestine

by Molly Gibbs

Local Peace activists express concern for Palestinians under Israeli Occupation

June was a horrific month for people enduring the Israeli Occupation in Gaza and the West Bank. The right-wing Likud Party and the Israeli government has taken advantage of the split between Hamas and Fatah, as civil war erupts with Fatah in control of the West Bank, and Hamas in Gaza. Many fear the vengeful attacks on Gaza's citizens may destroy their society, and any possibility of peaceful coexistence for and among Palestinians.

Olympians for Peace in the Middle East – June, 1967 Teach-in

On June 5 at the Olympia Center, the Olympia Rafah Sister City Project (ORSCP) provided citizens with an overview of the effects of the 1967 War on the Palestinians. Dr. Steve Niva, Terese Saliba and Farihan Bushnaq spoke; Phan Nguyen moderated. The June 1967 War is commonly known as the "Six-Day War", when Israel launched a pre-emptive attack on Egypt's air force, fearing an imminent invasion by Egypt. Jordan then attacked western Jerusalem and Netanya. At the war's end, Israel had gained control of eastern Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. The results of the war affect the region to this day.

This war, 40 years ago, secured US military, political, and financial support for Israel, helped shape current US policy in the Middle East, began the establishment of illegal Israeli settlements, and started the longest military occupation in modern history.

Northwest Convergence

On June 6, I carpooled with Cindy and Craig Corrie to Vancouver, Washington to protest at the NW Conference. We joined Voices for Middle East Justice to demand observation of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories on the 40th Anniversary of the Israeli Occupation. The Convergence Conference organizers, led by Rep. Tony Zarelli and his wife, invited Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and three extreme right wing members of the Israel's Likud Party to speak at the conference, held in the Vancouver Hilton Hotel.

The purpose of this two-day meeting was to merge US, Israeli and "anti-terrorism" political agendas. The Likud platform states that there shall be no Palestinian state within historic Palestine and that the land and settlements are the Jewish peoples' "unquestionable right." This conference presented only the most extremist, militarist voices in Israel, not the voices of peace in that country (which are the majority, also true of the US population.) Representative Zarelli's agenda is to influence the religious leaders and the US government to support the "security needs of Israel," wherein lies a direct conflict with our foreign policy need for peace in the Middle East. See www.ifonlyamericansknew.org

Voices for Peace in the Middle East effectively organized communication and news coverage. Vancouver police illegally videotaped our peaceful interactions with conference goers. Our crowd at its height numbered 40, including both protesters and counter protesters. Some of our representatives attended the Vancouver Convergence; both Senator Cantwell and Governor Gregoire had representatives present for unknown purposes.

DC Lobbying on the 40th Anniversary of Israeli Occupation

The breakthroughs in DC lobbying are directly attributable to our Palestinian friends and supporters. Farihan Bushnaq, Palestinian-American from Olympia, put her soul on the line in congressional offices. She talked about her teen years in 1967, and her family fleeing during the 1967 War, some of whom were resettled multiple times.

Husam el Nounou, Director of Public Relations at Gaza Community Mental Health Program told us: "Homes by the thousands have been demolished. Houses must be rebuilt and we are raising funds to build more. Our message from Palestine is that Gaza is an occupied land. It is a prison, where people are killed inside, unable to move without permits. Food and medicine are unavailable. The sky, sea and land are filled with bombs, or threat of, day and night. The humanitarian affects are indescribable. Stress and anger are constant."

Current events did not drop unexpectedly out of the sky. Combine 40 years of Israeli occupation, a US-led coup to collapse a democratically elected Palestinian government, a shift in internal Palestinian power-sharing, plus 40 years of single-party authority, and the international community's failure to uphold its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and we get to where we are today.

"Is this violence in the interest of the United States?" asks El Nounou? "The whole world is tied to the story of the Palestinians. Christians, Jews and Muslims with interest in the Holy Lands must understand that the violence stems from almost 60 years of occupation. Now we are locked in a vicious circle in this 'peace process.' Meet, talk, no action. The Palestinians cannot take more sacrifice of human life and dignity. How do you think they feel about the Arab Peace Initiative at this point?"

Mohammed Abu Asaker, from Rafah, addressed Legislative Aide to Adam Smith, Mark de la Iglesia: "Gaza is double the size of DC. Over 8,000 homes have been destroyed; over 30,000 are homeless. My father was a refugee. I was a student, blocked at checkpoints from getting to college classes. It took me three to 10 hours each time I had to go through the checkpoints. I was unable to complete my last semester. No, you are not allowed to leave Gaza. Those between 18 and 35 couldn't leave. There were 150 others trying to get out when I wanted to accept the scholarship offered to me from American University. I stayed in Egypt for three months. There I couldn't get back in to Gaza, and it can take from a few days to a few months to re-enter Gaza. Economic and political freedoms are zip in Gaza. Are you recognizing Palestinians as human beings?"

McDonald Sullivan, president of the Washington Sabeel chapter, grew up in China under Japanese occupation, and after visiting the Occupied Territories stated emphatically, "People are treated like animals at checkpoints. This is immoral, inhuman and a threat to world security."

Following pleas for US humanitarian intervention, Cindy Corrie explored with Mark de la Iglesia his possible interest in going to Palestine and Israel, to observe firsthand what is taking place. Jonathan Hale promises to get back to us for Senator Cantwell.

Post-DC demonstration opposing the US-Israeli Occupation of Palestine

The World Bank gives de facto recognition to Israel's annexation of Palestinian land by financing the checkpoints, defined as "development assistance" for Palestinians. The International Court of Justice verdict ruled against the wall in 2004, which makes this financing a violation of International Law. Israel's per capita income is too high to receive World Bank loans, so the funding is channeled through the Palestinian Authority, who have no discretion in spending funds designated for the checkpoints.

June 13: Civil War Announced, dividing Gaza from the West Bank

Hamas, no matter what one thinks of it, fairly won the January election. On the eve of its victory, it had already observed a one-year unilateral truce with Israel. According to the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, "Israel killed almost 700 Palestinians in 2006, of whom half were unarmed civilians, and 141 were children. By contrast, Palestinians killed 23 Israelis."

On what basis did the US shun the elected representatives (Hamas) of an occupied people, while allowing their occupiers to continue killing civilians and stealing land for Jewish-only settlements? Hamas tried to enter mainstream politics through the front door – and received sanctions in return. The door was slammed shut as the US funded and armed unaccountable, corrupt militias whose job was to undermine the results of a democratic election.

Israel increased its attempts to bring about the collapse of Palestinian society. This was done via "targeted" assassinations, nightly arrests, home demolitions, and over 500 military checkpoints. One million olive trees were uprooted, $800 million in Palestinian tax revenues were withheld, and an internationally condemned illegal 25 meter-high separation wall on Palestinian lands was built. This is the context leading to the violence in Gaza.

Current events did not drop unexpectedly out of the sky. Combine 40 years of Israeli occupation, a US-led coup to collapse a democratically elected Palestinian government, a shift in internal Palestinian power-sharing, plus 40 years of single-party authority, and the international community's failure to uphold its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and we get to where we are today.

The American government has a biased policy. Sanctions punish victims. And the United States has backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' so-called 'emergency government'. These unjust, double standards must stop. The American government influences the EU and other nations to not support Palestine. Many call for an international force to approach peace. Will the Israeli war crimes and violations of the UN charter continue?

Molly Gibbs chairs the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee. An active member of Veterans for Peace, Rachel Corrie Chapter 109, she is Program Coordinator for Know All You Can Know, which serves high school and college students. She can be contacted at kayck@olywa.net.

Olympia Food Co-op
Join Our Staff Collective!
The Co-op accepts employment applications at all times, and hires successful applicants as openings arise.
Visit us at: www.olympiafood.coop

Appeals court hears case against Caterpillar for deaths and injuries in Palestinian home demolitions

JULY 9, 2007, SEATTLE – Today the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit heard *Corrie et al. v. Caterpillar*, a case charging Caterpillar, Inc. with aiding and abetting war crimes and other serious human rights violations on the grounds that the company provided bulldozers to Israel knowing they would be used unlawfully to demolish homes and endanger civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The case was brought by the parents of Rachel Corrie and four Palestinian families whose family members were killed or injured when Caterpillar bulldozers demolished their homes. Corrie, a 23-year-old American peace activist and student at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, was killed March 16, 2003, in the Gaza Strip by a Caterpillar D9 bulldozer while protecting a home from illegal demolition.

"More than four years after Rachel's death, my family and I are still searching for justice," said Rachel's mother, Cindy Corrie. "My daughter was a peaceful activist trying to protect others, and her brutal killing should never have happened. Our family condemns all attacks on civilians. We believe Caterpillar must be held accountable for their role in the attack on my daughter Rachel and for those on Palestinian civilians whose homes were demolished with them inside."

Caterpillar provided the D9 bulldozers to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), knowing they would be used to unlawfully destroy civilian homes. Since the year 2000, the IDF has used Caterpillar bulldozers to destroy more than 4,000 Palestinian homes, leaving thousands of individuals homeless in the process. The Caterpillar D9 bulldozer is over 13 feet tall and 26 feet wide, weighs more than 60 tons with its armored plating, and can raze houses in a matter of minutes.

Much of the world community, including international human rights organizations and the United Nations, has consistently condemned these demolitions as a clear violation of international humanitarian law. For years, Caterpillar has had notice that the IDF was using its D9 bulldozers for human rights violations, yet has continued to provide them.

The case was argued today by the renowned scholar and professor Erwin Chemerinsky, Alston & Bird Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science, Duke University School of Law.

Gwynne L. Skinner, founder of the Public Interest Law Group, PLLC, and currently Visiting Clinical Professor of Law in the International Human Rights Clinic at Seattle University School of Law filed the case on behalf of the plaintiffs along with the Center for Constitutional Rights. Skinner said, "The court should reinstate this important human rights case. Aiding and abetting the destruction of civilian homes where there is simply no military necessity is a violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law. It is especially tragic when civilians are not given proper notice and the demolitions occur while they are still inside – sometimes in the middle of the night – leading to death and injuries, often of children and the disabled who cannot escape. Caterpillar has continually said it cannot control what the IDF does with the bulldozers, but that is not the standard corporations are held against – it is whether they give knowing assistance that has a substantial effect on the commission of the violations."

The case was dismissed by Judge Franklin D. Burgess in the Western District of Washington in November 2005. The Court of Appeals today heard oral arguments on whether the case should proceed while supporters gathered outside the courthouse.

Maria LaHood, Senior Attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights, said, "Caterpillar must be held accountable for selling its D9 bulldozers to Israel knowing they would be used to unlawfully demolish homes. The families who courageously brought this case because their homes were demolished and their loved ones were killed or injured deserve justice – no one should be above the law."

The plaintiffs are represented by the International Human Rights Clinic at Seattle University School of Law, the Seattle-based Public Interest Law Group, PLLC, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

About CCR

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) is a non-profit legal and educational organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights guaranteed by the US Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights demonstrators in the South, CCR is committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change.

For more information, visit the following websites:

www.rachelcorriefoundation.org
www.ccr-ny.org
www.stopcat.org
www.catdestroyshomes.org
hrw.org/campaigns/gaza/cat
web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde150332004
http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?list=type&type=158

NOT YOUR AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: Caterpillar coordinates with Israel in supplying weaponized bulldozers for use in what are internationally recognized as human rights abuses and war crimes.

Tired of the ***Olympian***'s biased reporting?

Support ***Works in Progress***!

Mainstream news media keep letting us down.
We need our own local independent media.
Works in Progress is part of the solution.
Please contribute so we can continue publishing.
We really need your contributions now.

THANK YOU!

Here is my donation of: [_] $100 [_] $50 [_] $35 [_] $20 [_] Other_____

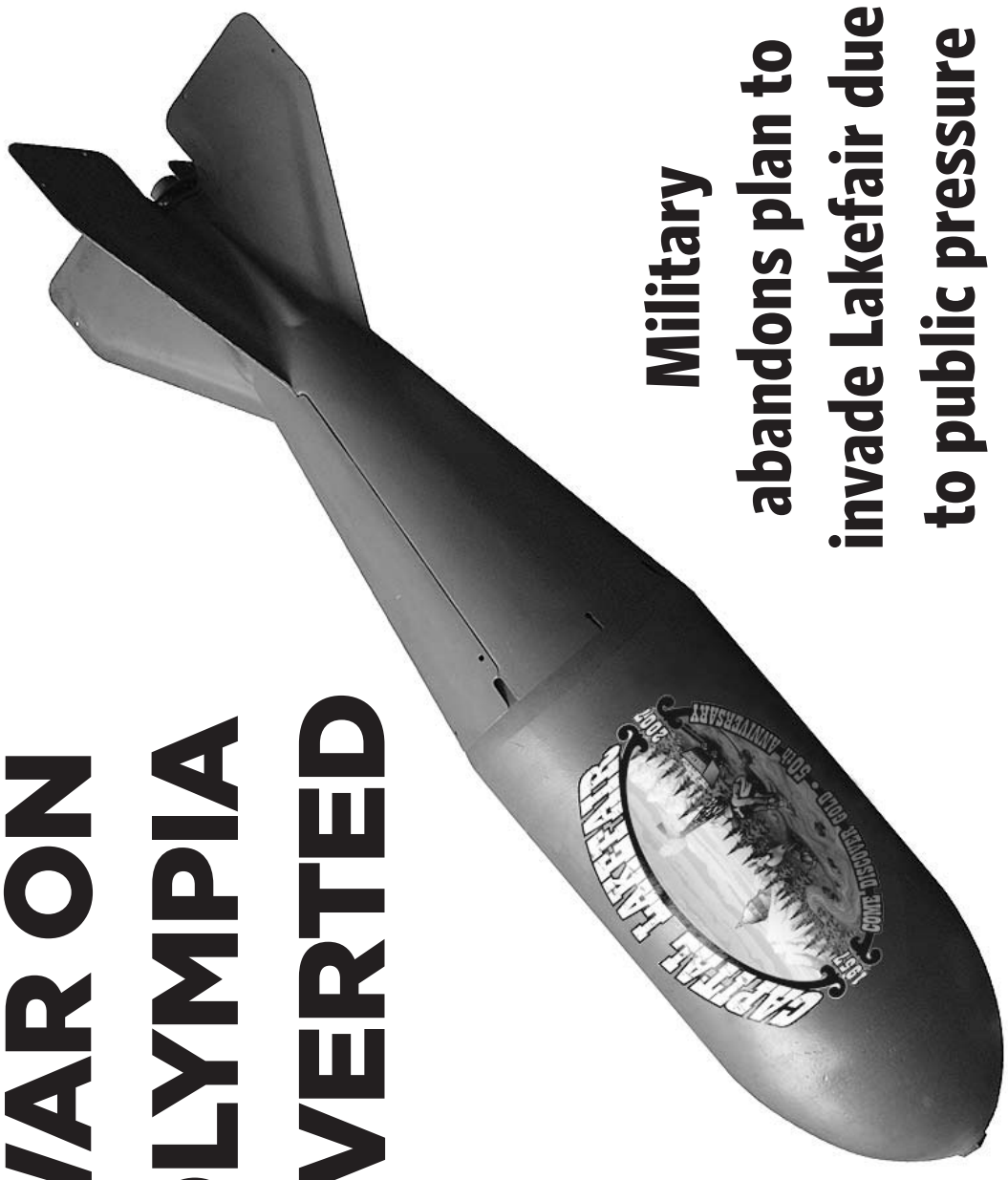
Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

WORKS IN PROGRESS
Volume 18, No. 4
Aug 2007
FREE

WAR ON OLYMPIA AVERTED



Military abandons plan to invade Lakefair due to public pressure

PLUS... A SOUTH SOUND GUIDE TO LOCAL FREE SPEECH ZONES!

Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507

THE WORKS IN PROGRESS GUIDE TO LOCAL FREE SPEECH ZONES

Want to exercise your Constitutional rights? We show you where you can!

LAKEFAIR

This year Lakefair provided a "Public Expression Area" conveniently located next to the porta-potties. You can express yourself and relieve yourself at the same time! (see pages 1 and 7)

PORT OF TACOMA

At the Port of Tacoma, the Tacoma Police set aside a "Designated Protest Area" that also happened to be a "No Bag Zone." Items not allowed into the area included backpacks, frontpacks, bags, buckets, boxes, purses, and water bottles. The First Amendment or the Fourth Amendment—which do you prefer? (see page 6)

OLYMPIA CENTER

The Olympia Center belongs to the city, but the *Olympian* thinks it's all theirs. Wanna complain? Take it outside! (see pages 1 and 7)

PORT OF ABERDEEN

The Port of Aberdeen had a nearby "Pubic Assembly Area" that also happened to be the only muddy field in the whole damn place! As Donald Rumsfeld said, "Freedom's untidy!"

As President Bush likes to say, "Freedom is on the move." Catch it before it's gone!

Coming soon...Free Speech™ scripts!